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LETTER DATED 25 MAY 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 23 May 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr. Hassan A. Hassanov, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 23 May 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan addressed to the President of the Security Council

In recent days, taking advantage of the relative lull at the fronts, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia have been regrouping their units and pouring additional reserves from the various regions of Armenia into the occupied areas of Azerbaijan, especially Khojaly.

Furthermore, information is being received from various sectors of the front concerning the acts of barbarism and pillaging being perpetrated by units of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia in the occupied territory. Taking advantage of the fact that the Azerbaijani units are observing the cease-fire agreement, the Armenian forces of occupation, as instructed by their command, are systematically setting fire to towns and villages and erasing them from the face of the earth; they are blowing up historical monuments, mosques, cemeteries, administrative and residential buildings, agricultural installations, communications infrastructure and water-supply systems.

In occupied lands in the Agdam, Fizuli, Djebrail, Kubatly and Zangelan districts of Azerbaijan, along the entire length of the front, powerful explosions are constantly reverberating and fires may be seen over a distance of many kilometres. The units of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia are especially zealous in this regard in the occupied Agdam district of Azerbaijan. At the present time, the town of Agdam and the villages of Marzily, Bash Karbend, Yusifjandy, Gyullyuja, Suma, Tagybely, Ilkhychlar, Shykhlar and others in the Agdam district are being destroyed. The historic centre of Agdam has been virtually annihilated. Evidently, realizing that it will be unable to hold down the Azerbaijani territories under occupation much longer, the Armenian army is employing "scorched earth" tactics with the intention of leaving behind, after its departure, lands that are unfit for residential or agricultural uses.

All these actions by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia are seriously impeding the intensive consultations on Nagorny Karabakh that are currently taking place with all the parties concerned within the framework of the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which should culminate in a definitive cessation of military operations and the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees to their homes.

Thus, Armenia, which has always boasted about the antiquity of its civilization, is openly demonstrating a policy towards the occupied Azerbaijani territories that is anything but civilized, a policy that verges on barbarism and wanton destruction.

(Signed) H. HASSANOV